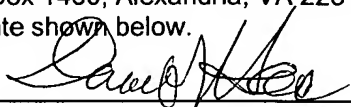


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Donald F. Haas
Date: October 26, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)	
)	
BRENDAN D. MURRAY, ZAIDA DIAZ,)	
and GLENN C. KOMPLIN)	
)	
Serial No. 10/729,148)	Group Art Unit: 1621
)	
Filed December 5, 2003)	Examiner: Yevgeny Valenrod
)	
REGENERATION OF A)	October 26, 2006
PHOSPHORUS-CONTAINING SORBENT)	
)	

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

REMARKS

The Applicants hereby traverse the restriction requirement made by the Examiner in the office action of October 5, 2006. The Examiner has required restriction among five groups of claims. Groups I, II, and III are all classified in the same subclass, Class 502, Subclass 20. The Applicants assert that there can be no additional burden of the search if all of the groups are classified in the same subclass.

The same is true for Groups IV and V. Both of these groups are classified in the same Class 502, Subclass 38. Therefore, there can be no unreasonable burden of search.

The Applicants assert that if the Examiner does a search for Group I, the Examiner will also have to search for all of the embodiments described in Groups II, III, IV, and V. Claim 1 in Group I provides for the use of a non-combustible sorbent and regeneration conditions effective to

remove combustible impurities comprising phosphorus. Among the non-combustible sorbents that are disclosed in the specification are sorbents that comprise a metal and sorbents where the support is selected from acidic zeolite, acidic alumina, and alumina. The Examiner will have to look for these materials in searching for references relevant to the patentability of Group I.


Among the regeneration conditions which are disclosed in the specification are rinsing the sorbent with a solvent and passing a gas through the sorbent bed. In order to find references relevant to the patentability of Group I, the Examiner will have to search for references which describe a regeneration process wherein a sorbent is exposed to a gas.

Therefore, the Applicants assert that there is no additional search burden or additional work for the Examiner in searching for claims 1 through 121 than there would be for searching for claims 1 through 26. The Applicants assert that the argument above overcomes the restriction requirement and requests that all claims be reinstated.

The Applicants provisionally elect the combination of Groups I, II, and III for prosecution in this application. If that is found unacceptable, then the Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-26, for prosecution in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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